

# Ahead of the Olympics 2024, Russia may participate in sporting events throughout Asia

Switzerland's LAUSANNE (AP) — by competing as a member of Asia rather than Europe, Russia might rejoin various international sporting competitions and Olympic qualifying events. While respecting the current sanctions, the OCA offered to make it easier for Russian and Belarussian athletes to compete in Asian events under its auspices. Olympic fans can buy [Olympic Athletics Tickets](#) from our website.

The president of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, hailed a "creative" plan on Friday that would allow athletes from Russia and its partner Belarus to compete in Asian events after more than nine months of exclusion due to the invasion of Ukraine from the majority of Olympic sports.



Although the transfer from Europe to Asia presents a potential means for Russian athletes to engage in regional competitions that act as qualifiers for the Games, the statement avoided directly addressing whether Russia and Belarus can send teams to the 2024 Olympics in Paris. In several sports, qualifying has already started.

President of the Russian Olympic Committee Stanislav Pozdnyakov posted on the Telegram app that "something that few even recently believed in could soon become reality." He expected that Russian athletes may return to Olympic qualifying "shortly."

Four days after the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, on February 28, the IOC proposed that Russian and Belarusian athletes be disqualified from participating due to safety and competition integrity concerns. The majority of Olympic sports implemented prohibitions after its example.

According to a statement, the Olympic Summit, an event sponsored by the IOC and presided over by Bach, decided Friday that the IOC will "lead the further examination" of a proposal from the Olympic Council of Asia to permit Russia and Belarus to compete there. Sports federations, athletes, and national sports bodies will all be consulted.



According to a statement on the IOC website, Bach "thanked the OCA for its original effort." Despite having territory in both Europe and Asia, Russia is typically seen as being in Europe for the purposes of sporting events.

The IOC statement added that during the discussion, the acting head of the Olympic Council of Asia remarked that there were no longer any justifications for the precautionary measures on the Asian continent.

The IOC makes a distinction between what it refers to as "sanctions," such as prohibiting Russia from sponsoring sporting events and from displaying flags

during competitions, and "protective measures," such as barring Russian athletes from participating.

On Wednesday, Bach stated that while his organization would have wanted to not exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes, it was forced to do so since, at the time it did so in February, the national governments were attempting to impose their limitations.

The decision to invite Pozdnyakov, the head of the Russian Olympic Committee, to the meeting has drawn criticism from Ukraine. On a list of attendees for the invitation-only event released by the IOC, there were no representatives of Ukraine. Only the United States and China's national Olympic bodies were present, aside from Russia.

The suggestions of the IOC are not mandatory for sports federations, and some may continue to impose limitations on Belarus and Russia. Seb Coe, the president of World Athletics, stated last week that before Russia can be re-admitted to track and field, it must "get out of Ukraine." Coe was invited to the Olympic Summit, but on Friday it was noted that he had been "excused."

Russian athletes have previously been admitted to the Olympics by the IOC without the nation's flag or national song. For three straight winter and Summer Olympic Games, the Russian squad was referred to as Olympic Athletes from Russia or the Russian Olympic Committee due to a decade of doping issues. Olympic fans can buy [\*\*Olympic Games Tickets\*\*](#) from our website.



Ukrainian athletes may choose to boycott games in retaliation if Russian athletes do decide to compete in international rather than continental championships. Ukraine declined to participate and claimed that many of the Russian team members were also serving in the military when the International Judo Federation permitted Russia and Belarus to play under a neutral flag. Russia and Belarus were cut off from the IJF from September till January 2023.

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## **Among the signatories to the first Sports for Nature, Framework is the IOC and the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee.**

The first-ever Sports for Nature Framework has been signed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the organizing committee for the Olympics and Paralympics in Paris in 2024. 23 organizations have signed the framework, pledging to abide by four principles to protect the environment and support the new global goals for biodiversity.

The four guiding principles are: safeguarding and preventing harm to significant species and habitats; building sustainable supply chains; educating and inspiring the athletic community to take action to conserve the environment; and committing to the restoration of significant ecosystems.

Tricia Smith, a member of the IOC, said during the launch that "the IOC thinks everyone has a responsibility to care for the earth. "As a founding member of the Sports for Nature Framework, we want to assist the sports community in minimizing any adverse effects on nature and promoting nature-friendly action."

"Paris 2024 is pleased to join this effort, as we believe sport can and should make a difference," said Tony Estranged, president of Paris 2024. By heavily relying on existing or temporary sporting venues to minimize its impacts,

preferring natural settings to avoid soil sealing, and incorporating extended nature preservation concepts into all of its procurement, Paris 2024 accepts its duties in the face of today's issues.

With a strong legacy perspective, all of our operations through 2024 will apply these and other efforts toward nature protection that were started back in 2015 during the early stages of planning for the Paris Games.



The framework's signatories are required to submit an annual progress report to an expert panel, which will vouch for the legitimacy and efficacy of the implemented steps. The International Canoe Federation, International Table Tennis Federation, International Cycling Union, World Rowing, World Sailing, World Skate Federation, and International Orienteering Federation are the other signatories to the framework.

The International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation, the International SAMBO Federation, the International University Sports Federation, the World Squash Federation, England Squash, the AIUIA Sports Club, the Forest Green Rovers, the Ocean Race, the We Play Green, the E1 Series, the Extreme E, and the Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc are among the sporting organizations.

IOC President Thomas Bach attended a meeting of SOLI DEO, the Olympic Delivery Authority, on the same day that the IOC and the Paris 2024 Organizing Committees signed the framework.

Tony Estanguet, president of Paris 2024, and Nicolas Ferrand, CEO of SOLI DEO, were present at the meeting, which was presided over by Paris Mayor

Anne Hidalgo. According to SOLI DEO, the meeting gave a chance to highlight the accomplishments and positive developments on the sites.

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With a strong legacy perspective, we will continue to apply these and other initiatives toward nature protection across all of our operations through 2024. These efforts began back in 2015, during the early stages of development for the Paris Games.

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